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General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the attention of the Sixth Committee to the following.

Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly allocated 19 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of these items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, is contained in the letter dated 21 September 2007 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, which has been circulated as a document of the Committee (A/C.6/62/1).

Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The following table lists the documents of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,[1] in accordance with requests of Member States.

[1] The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the sixty-second session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 21 September 2007.

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	Projected date of issuance
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	No advance documentation required
Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts [78]	
Compilation of decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies: Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/62 and Corr.1, and Add.1)	Issued
Comments and information received from Governments: Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/63 and Add.1)	Issued
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [79]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/___)	Early November
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [80]	
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/62/54)	Issued
Note by the Secretariat on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission (A/62/329)	Early October
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fortieth session [81]	
Report of the Commission (A/62/17 (Part I))[2]	Issued
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-ninth session [82]	
Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/62/10)	End of September
Diplomatic protection [83]	
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-eighth session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/61/10)	Issued in 2006
Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/118 and Add.1)	Issued

[2] The document is an advance version (part I) of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fortieth session, held in Vienna from 25 June to 12 July 2007. It will appear in final form, together with the report on the work of the resumed fortieth session of the Commission, to be held in Vienna from 10 to 14 December 2007, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/62/17).

	Projected date of issuance
Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm [84]	
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-third session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/56/10)	Issued in 2001
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-eighth session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/61/10)	Issued in 2006
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [85]	
Report of the Special Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/62/33)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/62/124 and Corr.1)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/62/206 and Corr.1)	Issued
The rule of law at the national and international levels [86]	
Report of the Secretary-General on the rule of law at the national and international levels: comments and information received from Governments (A/62/121 and Add.1)	Issued
Rule of law at the national and international levels: interim report of the Secretary-General (A/62/261)	Issued
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [108]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/160)	Issued
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/62/37)	Issued
Letter dated 15 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/62/291)	Issued
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [121] (adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-third session) (resolution 58/316)	No advance documentation required
Programme planning [129]	

	Projected date of issuance
Administration of justice at the United Nations [137]	
Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2005 and 2006 and statistics on the disposition of cases and work of the Panel of Counsel (A/62/179)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations (A/62/294)	Early October
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Ombudsman (A/62/___)	Early October
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [157]	
Report of the Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/62/26)	Early November
Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in the General Assembly [158]	
Letter dated 24 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/62/141)	Issued
Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly [159]	
Letter dated 18 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/62/143)	Issued
Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly [160]	
Letter dated 30 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/62/191)	Issued
Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly [162]	
Letter dated 2 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/62/194)	Issued

Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning

of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly, at its 91st plenary meeting, on 28 March 2007, adopted a decision containing the revised provisional programme of work for the Sixth Committee for the sixty-second session of the Assembly (decision 61/553). The following programme has been prepared on this basis taking into account the allocation of items by the Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting.

6. At the same meeting, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the General Committee, fixed the target date of 15 November 2007 for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee (A/62/250, para. 11), which has also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the following work programme.

	Approximate dates of consideration
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	8 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [137]	8 and 24 October
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [108]	10, 11 and 26 October
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [80]	15 and 26 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [85]	16 and 17 October
Diplomatic protection [83]	19 October
Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in the General Assembly [158]	19 October[a]
Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly [159]	19 October[a]
Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly [160]	19 October[a]
Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly [162]	19 October[a]
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fortieth session [81]	22 October
Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm [84]	23 October
Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts [78]	24 October

	Approximate dates of consideration
The rule of law at the national and international levels [86]	25 and 26 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-ninth session [82]	29 October-8 November
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [79]	15 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [157]	15 November
Programme planning [129]	15 November[a]
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [121] (adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-third session (resolution 58/316))	15 November
In reserve	9 and 12 November

[a] On the basis of a proposal by the Bureau.

Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations

7. Regarding agenda item 137, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly, in its decision 61/511 B, decided to continue at its sixty-second session, in the Sixth Committee, its consideration, under the agenda item entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", of the legal aspects, both institutional and procedural, of the report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice (A/61/206) and the comments of the Secretary-General on the recommendations contained in the report of the Redesign Panel (A/61/758), taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Fifth Committee at the resumed sixty-first session of the General Assembly, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/815). In addition, upon the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/261, invited the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. In the light of the above and following consultations by the Bureau, six meetings, from 8 to 11 and on 18 October, have been reserved for a working group on the administration of justice at the United Nations.

8. Concerning agenda item 108, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, at its 39th meeting on 15 February 2007, decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continue to discuss the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In the light of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, contained in

paragraph 12 of its report,[3] and following consultations by the Bureau, three meetings, on 11 and 18 October, have been reserved for that purpose.

9. Concerning agenda item 80, entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, at its 2nd meeting, on 13 April 2007, decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to continuing the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 59/300, focusing on its legal aspects, taking into account the views expressed in the Ad Hoc Committee.[4] In the light of the above and following consultations by the Bureau, four meetings, on 15 to 17 and 23 October, have been reserved for that purpose.

10. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee (see para. 13 below), any meetings for the working groups or for informal consultations will have to be accommodated within the overall meetings allocated to the Committee.

Deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

11. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. As 15 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6 above), 2 November 2007 would have to be considered the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning the items that will be considered after that date.

Conference resources available

12. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more than 8 to 10 plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

13. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/62/37).

[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 54* (A/62/54).